

THE LAND STATUS SITUATION

In further consideration of the Cherokee forest, detailing the reconnaissance statistics of its present conditions requires a distinction to be made between the land in Tribal Reserve and that in Possessory Holdings.

The boundary between the Tribal Reserve and Possessory Holdings is only an approximate one, however. It has not been surveyed, no definite boundary markers are placed on the ground, what maps were available differed in showing its location, and there were differences of opinion between Bureau of Indian Affairs personnel as to where it was supposed to be. Indeed, the Tribal Reserve appears to exist only in the intent of some previous Tribal Council consideration and its limit is wherever some loosely defined or as yet undefined Possessory Holding does not make a competing claim. This situation interposes a serious roadblock in the development of a management plan for the Cherokee forest.

The boundary used for this report is that shown on a map provided by the Bureau's Branch of Forestry at Cherokee.

The same situation introduces a question concerning the statistics on Possessory Holdings. In the absence of any map compiled to show boundaries of the claims, it is not known if all the area thus designated is actually assigned - or if some